

resources into the state operation side of things, a little less on the state aid side or we suffer consequences of program cuts, service cuts and certainly in the area of faculty salaries we ought to be concerned about, after making some progress in that area, what the consequences are of not continuing to adequately fund faculty salaries. So I'm just expressing to you an overall concern about some of the priorities on the budget that seem to me to not necessarily balance out as fairly as could be the burden of the budget that we're having to bear.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, and thank you, Brad Ashford, for bringing this amendment. I decided I might as well vote for it, I might as well be the last of the big spenders. One of the things that I suffered through during the Appropriations meetings was this very subject, is the salaries of university professors. And one of the things that was never done and probably will never be done is no one has ever sent a message to the Regents to cut down on the administration salaries. It's always the professors that we decide can be cut. Now I'm talking about all four campuses when I talk. I'm speaking of Lincoln, Omaha, Medical Center and Kearney. Each one of them has a unique part in the system, the university system. And one of the...two of the things I want to talk about are...first is the peer group. I analyzed the two peer groups myself and in a way on statistics and when they were founded. Most of those colleges, universities that the UNL uses as their peer group were founded about the same time that Nebraska was. They all give doctorates. The population, the student population and the faculty ratio is pretty close to the same. There are some exceptions and two of the exceptions in the second group that we were given in Appropriations to look at, for a peer group, Knoxville, Tennessee University was founded in 1794 and Georgia in 1785. All the rest of them were in the second half of the Nineteenth Century, after 1850. And so that puts all of us in the same category and I think the current group that they use is a very good group. I don't...I don't fault it. The other thing I want to talk about are the professors themselves. I know so many of them on all the campuses and I know how hard they work. I know where they've gotten their education. I know what they bring to the students. Merlin Lawson, a geography professor, former chair of the department, has worked over the years on the ice core in Greenland. Quentin Faulkner, an internationally known expert on